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BABYLON

IN VALEN'S NAME

PART THREE OF THREE

**BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
PETER DAVID, MICHAEL COLLINS
AND DAVID ROACH**



DIRECT SALES



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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

AND WE PRAY, Z'ONDR, THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE OURSELVES WORTHY OF YOU ONCE MORE. THAT YOU WILL WELCOME US TO YOUR WAY... 3

5

AUTO TRANSLATION OF TARK'CHA ENGAGED

...FOR WE FELL FROM YOUR GRACE CENTURIES AGO. WE, YOUR LOYAL DISCIPLES, THE EXILES, THE WANDERERS, AND NOW WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO YOUR GREATNESS...

...AND WE WILL NOT FAIL.

RACDELA COZON.

YES, RAMDE.

OUR SHIPS ARE IN PLACE?

YES, RAMDE.

HAVE THEM HOLD POSITION. I WILL PERSONALLY LEAD THEM IN TO THE ENDE X'TON. I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT WILL BE MOST DANGEROUS, RAMDE HAXTUR.

THE Z'ONDR WOULD HAVE WANTED NOTHING LESS.

WHAT WE DO NOW... WE DO IN HIS NAME.

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IN VALEN'S NAME *BOOK THREE*

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STORY ARC WRITER PENCILLER INKER LETTERS COLORS EDITOR

BABCOM IVANOVA

EVERY 50 OFTEN, WHEN I -- SUSAN IVANOVA -- FIND MYSELF IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, SUCH AS... OH, I DON'T KNOW...

...BEING IN A PLUMMETING SPACE STATION THAT'S GOING TO BURN UP IN A PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE, UNLESS I'M KILLED FIRST BY UNKNOWN ALIEN RAIDERS...

...I FIND MYSELF THINKING OF **JEFFREY SINCLAIR**, FIRST COMMANDER OF BABYLON 5... WHO WOUND UP GOING BACK IN TIME A THOUSAND YEARS WITH THIS VERY STATION, BABYLON 4, AND BECOMING THE LEGENDARY MINBARI LEADER **VALEN**.

BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



秀秀秀

秀秀秀

AND I WONDER TO MYSELF, WHAT WOULD COMMANDER JEFFREY SINCLAIR *DO* IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?

THEN I TRY TO PICTURE HIM DENDING OVER AND KISSING HIMSELF *GOOD-BYE*.

THAT'S USUALLY ABOUT WHERE THE SPECULATION *ENDS*.

THERE
APPEAR TO BE
ABOUT TWENTY OF
THEM... NOW ANOTHER
ONE'S COMING
OUT...

HUH. IT'S
PROBABLY A
RANKING OFFICER. THEY
SEEM TO BE MOVING
ASIDE, GIVING HIM
ROOM.

WE NEED TO
BUY ENOUGH TIME
FOR MICHAEL TO GET
MORE OF THESE FIGHTERS
WORKING, SO WE CAN GET
OFF THE STATION BEFORE
IT BURNS UP.

THEN TRY APPLYING YOUR MAGIC
TOUCH TO THE OTHERS. IN THE
MEANTIME, I'M TAKING
THIS ONE.

BUT
YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW TO
OPERATE
IT!

LET'S HOPE
CAPTAINING
WHITE STARS
HAS GIVEN ME
SOME FAMILIARITY
WITH THE
CONTROLS.

WHOA, WAIT
A MINUTE. IT WAS LUCK
THAT I GOT THIS ONE
WORKING. ALL I DID WAS
HIT THE DAMNED
THING.

CAPTAIN, WHAT
ARE YOU GOING TO DO
ONCE YOU GET OUT
THERE?

EVER
SEE A CAT WHEN
IT'S OVERMATCHED,
COMMANDER?

HUH? I
DON'T --?

I'M GOING
TO ARCH MY BACK
AND MAKE MYSELF
LOOK SCARIER
THAN I AM.



I AM
RAMDE ZARWIN
OF THE TAH'CHA...
AND I SERVED
VALEN LIKE NO
OTHER.



MY PEOPLE WERE
DEDICATED TO
VALEN. WE CAME
TO HIM WHEN HE
CALLED, JOINED HIM
IN HIS WAR AGAINST
THE SHADOWS.

WE WERE
DIRECTIONLESS,
AND HE SHOWED
US THE WAY.
HE GAVE US
PURPOSE.



AND WE BUILT
UPON HIS
TEACHINGS...

... AND WERE
REJECTED.



FOR WE SAW
THE LOGICAL
EXTENSION OF WHAT
HE TAUGHT US... AND
ALTHOUGH WE
FOLLOWED HIM INTO
FIRE, INTO
DARKNESS, INTO
DEATH...

HE
WOULD NOT
FOLLOW
US.



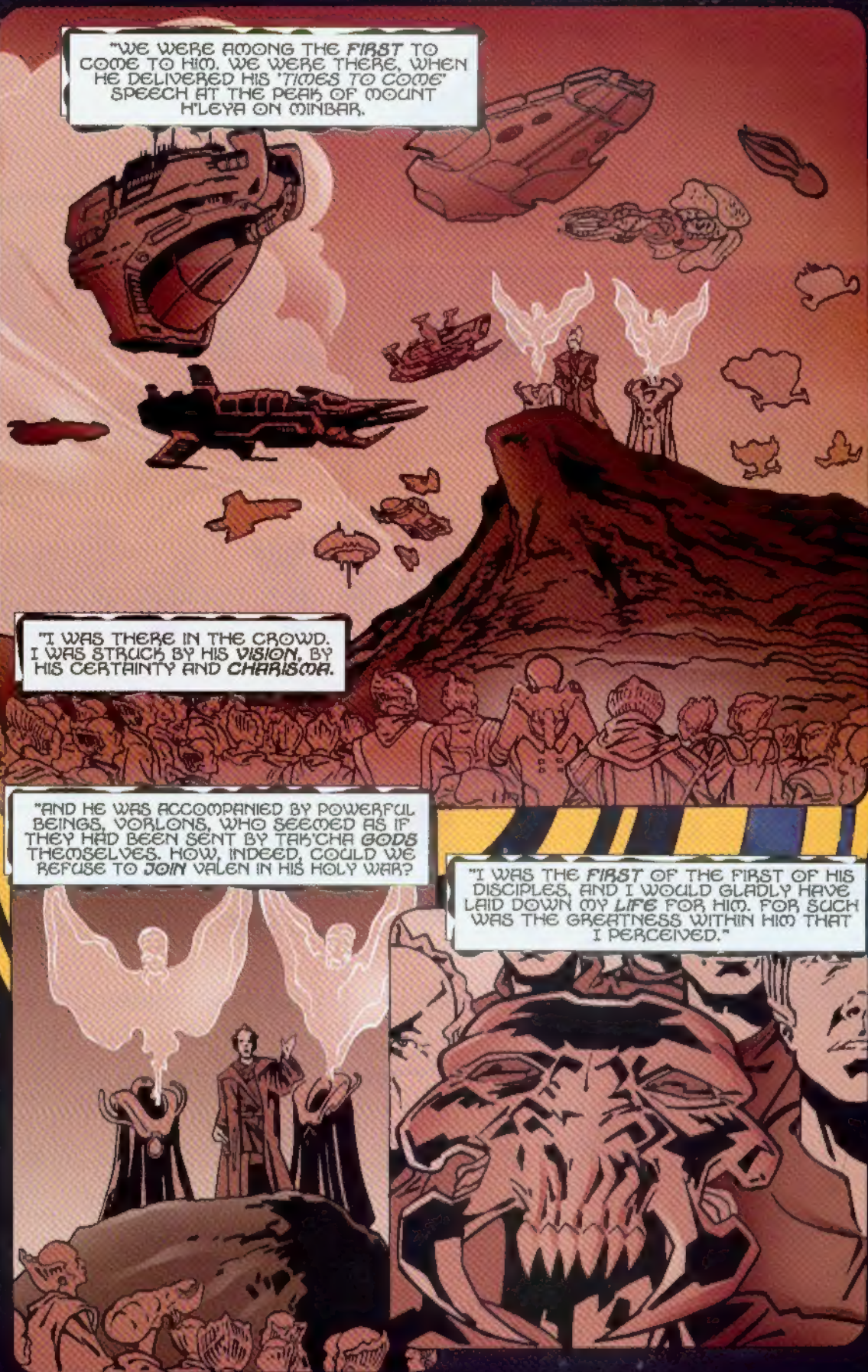
NOW
WHAT SORT
OF LEADER IS
THAT?

"WE WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO COME TO HIM. WE WERE THERE, WHEN HE DELIVERED HIS 'TIMES TO COME' SPEECH AT THE PEAK OF MOUNT H'LEYA ON MINBAR.

"I WAS THERE IN THE CROWD. I WAS STRUCK BY HIS VISION, BY HIS CERTAINTY AND **CHARISMA**.

"AND HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY POWERFUL BEINGS, VORLONS, WHO SEEMED AS IF THEY HAD BEEN SENT BY TAK'CHA GODS THEMSELVES. HOW, INDEED, COULD WE REFUSE TO JOIN VALEN IN HIS HOLY WAR?

"I WAS THE FIRST OF THE FIRST OF HIS DISCIPLES, AND I WOULD GLADLY HAVE LAID DOWN MY LIFE FOR HIM. FOR SUCH WAS THE GREATNESS WITHIN HIM THAT I PERCEIVED."



"VALEN EVEN BASED THE MAIN WEAPON OF THE ANLA'SHOK UPON A TAK'CHA WEAPON CALLED A BARBEN. I GAVE HIM HIS FIRST *GROUNDINGS* IN IT..."

"ALTHOUGH I READILY ADMIT THAT THE PUPIL QUICKLY *OUTSTRIIPPED* THE TEACHER."



MY APOLOGIES, ZARWIN. I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT YOU. I WAS... *DISTRACTED.*

DISTRACTED? YOU DISPATCH ME SO *EASILY...* AND YOU WERE *DISTRACTED?* HUMILIATE ME A BIT *MORE*, VALEN, IF YOU WISH.

WHAT *TROUBLES* YOU, GREAT ONE?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO, ZARWIN, IF YOU KNEW OF A GREAT WAR TO COME... ONE THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY *MISUNDERSTANDING...* AND YOU HAD IT WITHIN YOUR POWER TO *PREVENT* THE WAR...

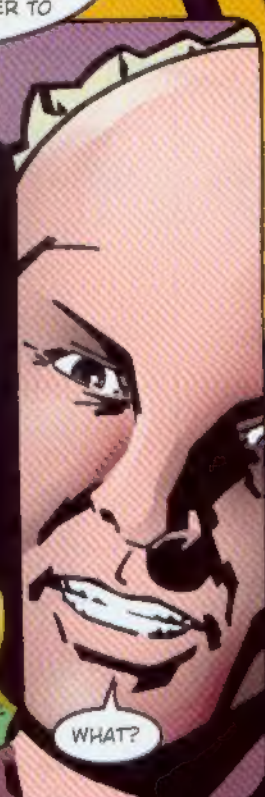
BUT *DARED* NOT.

I... DO NOT *UNDERSTAND*, VALEN. WHY WOULD YOU DESIRE TO DO THAT?

DO WHAT?

PREVENT A WAR.

WHAT?



GLODY IS FOUND IN WAR. THERE IS NO GREATER DEATH THAN ONE FOUND IN BATTLE ON BEHALF OF A GREATER CAUSE.

WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO DENY ANYONE THAT WONDROUS MEANS OF DEPARTING THIS SPHERE?

ZARWIN... WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT BELIEF?

WHY... FROM YOUR TEACHINGS, GREAT ONE.




GREAT ONE... HAVE I ANGERED YOU IN SOME WAY?



NO. NO, I SIMPLY FIND IT INTERESTING WHAT DIFFERENT PEOPLE TAKE AWAY FROM MY TEACHINGS. SPACE MAY EXIST IN A VACUUM...

...BUT THE THINGS I SAY OBVIOUSLY DO NOT.





SUSAN,
GET DELENN
ON.

I'M HERE,
JOHN.

DELENN,
THERE'S AN ARRAY
OF CONTROLS TO MY
RIGHT AND LEFT,
TRIANGULAR, RED AND
GREEN RESPECTIVELY.
ANY IDEA WHAT
THEY ARE?

I'M NOT CERTAIN.
THEY COULD BE OFFENSIVE
AND DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS,
BUT THERE'S NO WAY
TO BE SURE.

WELL, WITH ANY LUCK, I WON'T
NEED THEM. STAY IN CLOSE
TOUCH WITH MICHAEL, FIND OUT
HOW HE'S COMING WITH
ESCAPE VESSELS.

I'M GOING
TO DO WHAT I
CAN OUT
HERE.

3A3COM TVANOVA

I'VE SEEN JOHN
SHERIDAN FLY WITH
MORE CONFIDENCE THAN
ANY OTHER PILOT I'VE
EVER KNOWN. HIS
SKITTISHNESS ABOUT
THE CONTROLS IS
EVIDENT TO ME.

I JUST HOPE TO GOD IT'S
NOT OBVIOUS TO OUR
FRIENDS OUT THERE,
BECAUSE I THINK I
KNOW WHAT HE'S
PLANNING TO DO.

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RAMDE, WHAT IS THE
APPROACHING VESSEL
DOING?

I AM... NOT
SURE. IT DOES
NOT SEEM TO BE
THREATENING
IN ANY WAY

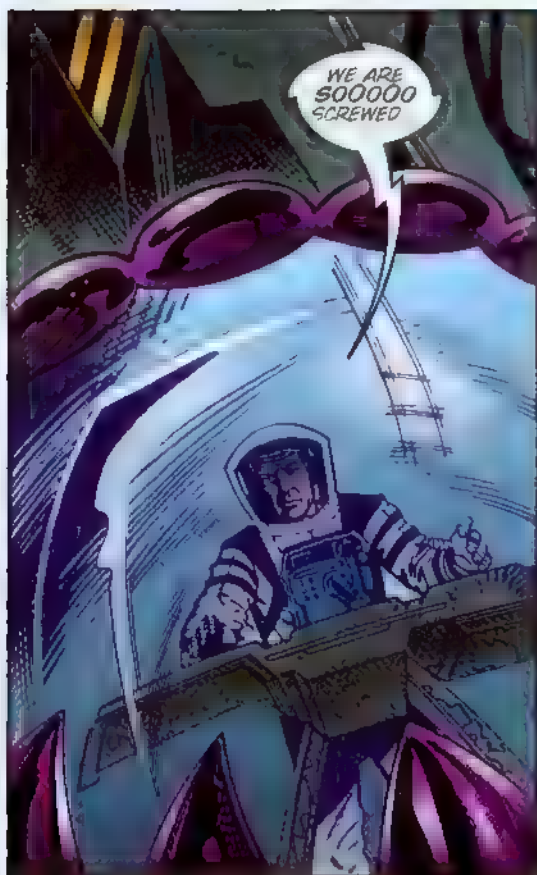
DO NOT
LET IT GET
TOO CLOSE.
RAMDE! DO NOT
PUT YOURSELF
AT RISK!

STOP
BEING AN
OLD WOMAN.
COZON.

IF I AM
NEVER AT
RISK... WHAT
EXCITEMENT
IS THERE
TO LIFE?



WHAT
IN THE NAME
OF Z'ONDAR...?
THEY'RE JUST
TURNING.. IN
PLACE.



AW CRAP! CAPTAIN,
WHAT --?

WHO'S THE
DESIGN GENIUS
WHO PUT A WEAPONS
SYSTEM WHERE THE
THRUSTERS
SHOULD
BE?!


GET OUT
OF THERE,
JOHN!
HURRY!

WE ALLOWED THEM TO
APPROACH, AND THIS
IS THE RESPONSE
WE GET!

ALL WINGS,
FOLLOW ME.
BUT STAY
BACK! THIS
KILL IS
MINE!

GREAT.
JUST GREAT. WITH
MY LUCK, THIS IS THE
SELF-DESTRUCT
COMMAND INSTEAD
OF --

"ONE DAY, VALEN SAID TO
MYSELF AND TWO OTHER
CLOSE ALLIES, NUKENN
AND BASHOB, COME TO ME
FOR THERE ARE IMPORTANT
THINGS I MUST DISCUSS
WITH YOU. I WAS BROUGHT
TO HIM FIRST..."




I AM
HERE AS YOU
REQUESTED,
GREAT ONE.
WHERE ARE
THE OTHER
TWO?


THEY
WILL BE ALONG
ZARWIN

I HAVE
DONE A GREAT
DEAL OF THINKING,
AND I HAVE DECIDED
TO TRUST THE THREE OF
YOU WITH A MISSION.
YOU WILL EACH BE
ASSIGNED THE
SAME ONE

BY THAT
REPETITION, IT
IS MORE LIKELY
THAT ONE OF YOU,
AT LEAST, WILL
ACCOMPLISH
IT.



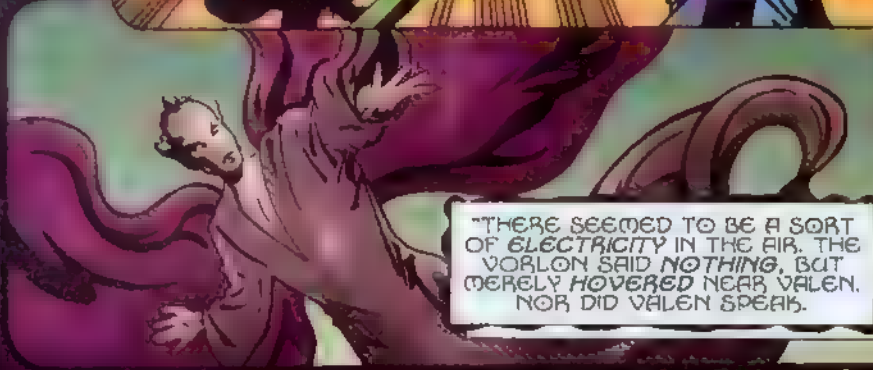
I SHALL
NOT LET YOU
DOWN, VALEN.
WHAT WOULD
YOU HAVE
OF ME?




THERE
IS A DETAILED
MESSAGE N HERE...
FOR ONE CALLED
DELENN. BUT SHE IS
NOT OF NOW. SHE
IS OF THE FAR
FUTURE.

YOUR PEOPLE
ARE TO HOLD IT FOR
HER, AND GIVE IT
TO HER --

-- SO THAT A GREAT
MISUNDERSTANDING
CAN BE AVOIDED --



"THERE SEEMED TO BE A SORT
OF ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR. THE
VORLON SAID NOTHING, BUT
MERELY HOVERED NEAR VALEN.
NOR DID VALEN SPEAK.



"AND YET...
SOMEHOW. IT
SEEMED AS IF
THEY WERE..."

"...ARGUING..."

YES. YOU
ARE RIGHT, OF
COURSE.

I KNEW
ALL THAT... AND
YET SOMEHOW I
FELT THAT... IF I
MERELY ALLOWED
SO MANY TO
DIE...

THERE IS,
BUT ONLY ONE.

...HOWEVER...
THERE IS NO
CHOICE, IS THERE

I . APOLOGIZE FOR
WASTING YOUR TIME,
RAMDE ZARWIN

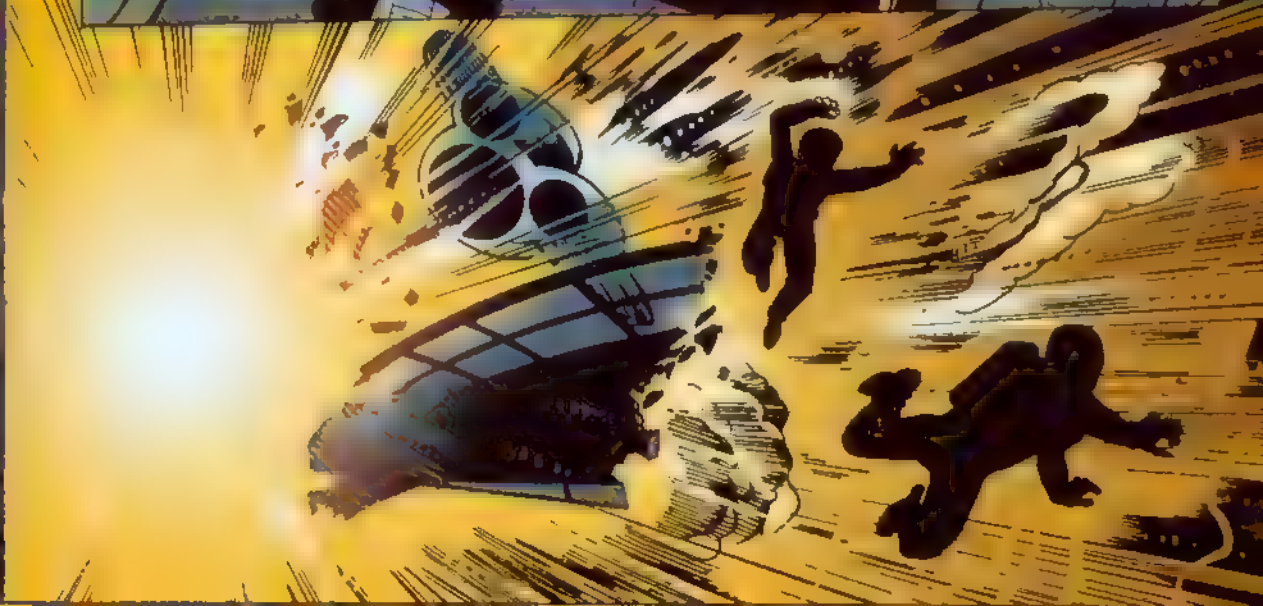
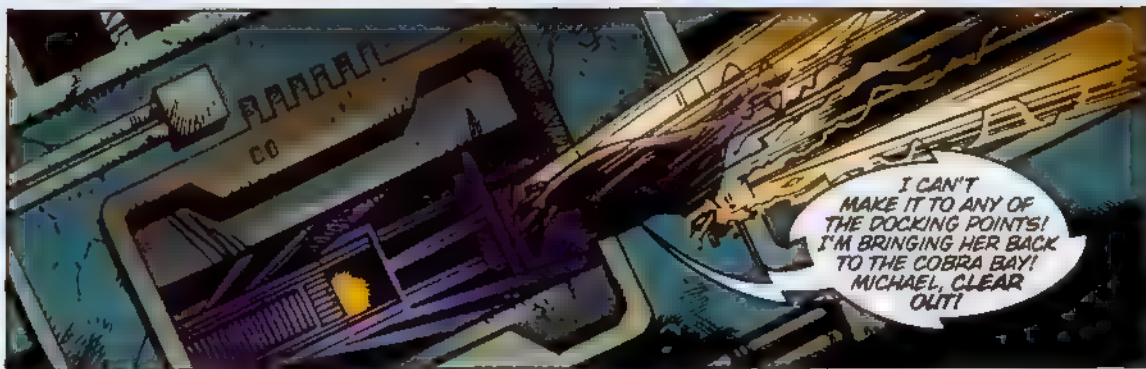
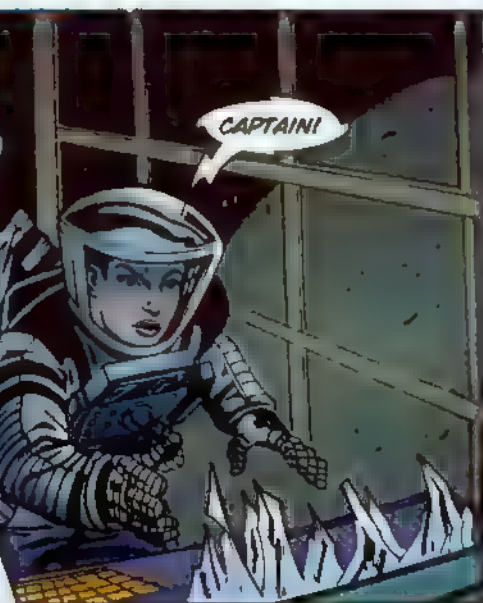
IT IS
YOUR
TO WASTE.
GREAT
ONE.

ZARWIN . ? WHAT JUST..
HAPPENED HERE?
WHERE IS VALEN
GOING?

I... AM
NOT
SURE.

IT HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH...
A MISUNDER-
STANDING.





PITY THERE'S NO OXYGEN
IN SPACE. OTHERWISE THAT
FIREBALL MIGHT KEEP THEM
OFF OUR TAIL FOR A FEW
MINUTES INSTEAD OF
BEING SNUFFED
RIGHT OUT.

WHAT
HAPPENED
OUT THERE
ANYWAY?

AN ACCIDENT,
UNFORTUNATELY
THE LAST ACCIDENT TO
OCCUR INVOLVING A
MINBARI VESSEL
RESULTED IN A TWO-YEAR
WAR

IF IT'S ANY COMFORT,
THIS ONE'LL PROBABLY
TAKE A LOT LESS
TIME

NO COMFORT AT ALL,
BUT I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT

FIND THEM!
I WANT THOSE
WHO WOULD
DESECRATE THE
PLACE OF THE
Z'ONDAR.

I
WANT THE ONE
WHO FIRED UPON ME
BROUGHT TO ME ALIVE,
SO THAT I MAY TAKE HIS
HEAD MYSELF. AS FOR ANY
OTHERS WHO MAY BE
WITH HIM...

"...SLAY THEM
ON SIGHT, IN
THE NAME OF
THE Z'ONDAR."



ZARWIN!


GREAT ONE!
I HAVE JUST FINISHED
THIS TRIBUTE TO YOU!
IT IS OUR WORD FOR YOU...
"Z'ONDAR," WHICH MEANS
"GREAT ONE" IN OUR
LANGUAGE TRANSLITERATED
INTO WHAT WE'VE
LEARNED OF YOUR
TONGUE.

THIS AREA
IS LARGELY
UNFREQUENTED,
SO I TOOK
THE LIBERTY
OF ---



S WHAT I AM TOLD TRUE? THAT YOUR
PEOPLE HAVE ONCE AGAIN ATTACKED
A HELPLESS RACE?

HELPLESS,
GREAT ONE?
I HUMBLY
DISAGREE.



THE YOLU, WHILE NOT THE
MOST POWERFUL RACE THAT
COULD ALLY WITH US, COULD
CERTAINLY BE OF AID IN
OUR WAR AGAINST
THE SHADOWS.

BUT
WHEN THEY
WERE APPROACHED
ABOUT JOINING, THEY
TURNED A DEAF EAR.
SAID THEY DID NOT
WISH TO BECOME
INVOLVED.

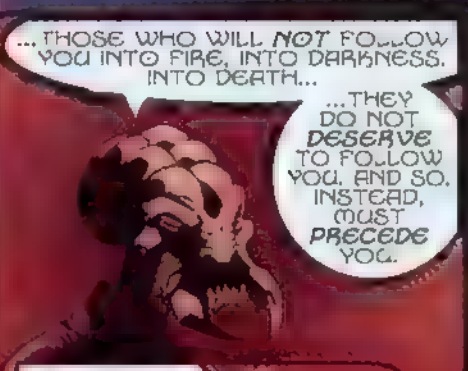
IT WAS
AN INSULT TO
YOU. WE COULD
NOT TOLERATE SUCH
ARROGANCE. AND
SO, IN YOUR NAME,
WE PUNISHED
THEM.

IT WAS
ONLY YOUR
TEACHINGS,
GREAT ONE,
THAT.




MY TEACHINGS? HOW
DID YOU COME TO THAT
CONCLUSION?

OBVIOUSLY.
GREAT ONE.



... THOSE WHO WILL NOT FOLLOW
YOU INTO FIRE, INTO DARKNESS.
INTO DEATH...

... THEY
DO NOT
DESERVE
TO FOLLOW
YOU, AND SO,
INSTEAD,
MUST
PRECEDE
YOU.



HOW... COULD
YOU? HAVE YOU NO
COMPASSION?
HAVE YOU NO
CARE FOR THE
HELPLESS?

WE MUST BE
TRUE TO OURSELVES,
ABOVE ALL ELSE AND
AS WE SEE FIT, WE
WILL --

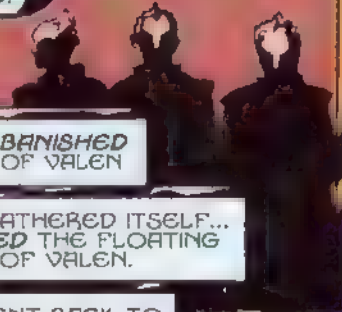
GET OUT.
I WILL NOT HAVE
INNOCENT BEINGS
SLAUGHTERED IN MY
NAME. I WILL
NOT

WE CARE
ONLY IN
GLORIFYING
YOUR NAME,
VALEN --



BUT,
YOU NEED
US AS
ALLIES..


WE'LL
MANAGE
WITHOUT YOU
NOW LEAVE.



"AND SO... WE WERE BANISHED
FROM THE PRESENCE OF VALEN

"OUR FLEET GATHERED ITSELF...
AND DEPARTED THE FLOATING
HOME OF VALEN.

"WE WENT BACK TO
OUR HOMEWORLD

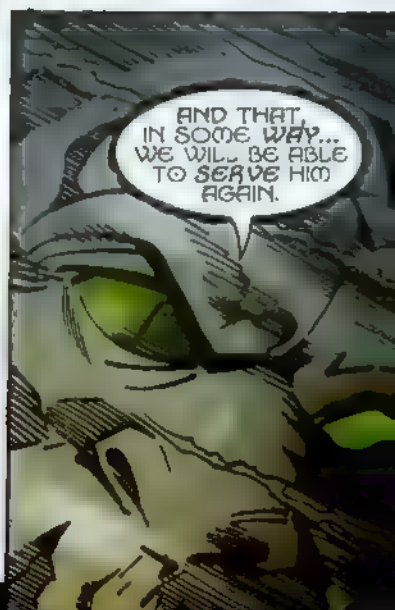


"AND FROM THERE
KEPT TRACK OF THE
WAR AGAINST THE
SHADOWS."

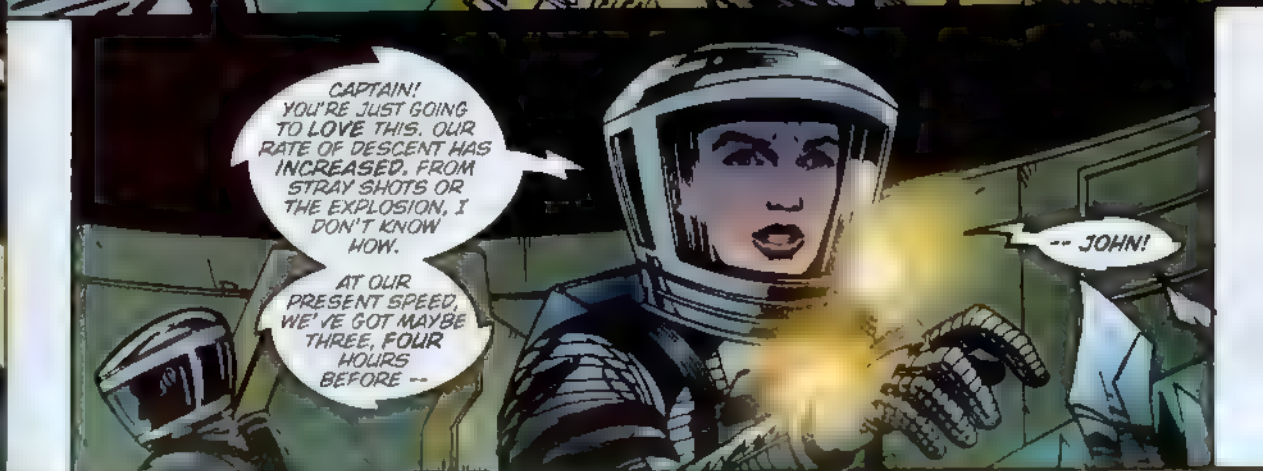


WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHERE WE HAVE FAILED THE Z'ONDA. WE ACTED IN WHAT WE BELIEVED TO BE HIS BEST INTERESTS, BUT WE MUST ACCEPT HIS WORDS, EVEN IF WE DON'T COMPREHEND THEM...

...AND WE WILL HOPE THAT SOMEDAY... WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE SIN WHICH WE DON'T UNDERSTAND



AND THAT, IN SOME WAY... WE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE HIM AGAIN.



CAPTAIN! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LOVE THIS. OUR RATE OF DESCENT HAS INCREASED, FROM STRAY SHOTS OR THE EXPLOSION, I DON'T KNOW HOW.

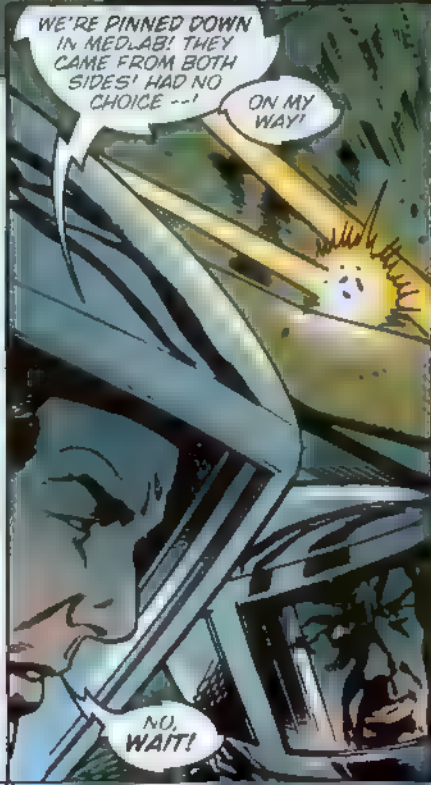
AT OUR PRESENT SPEED, WE'VE GOT MAYBE THREE, FOUR HOURS BEFORE --

-- JOHN!



WERE THOSE SHOTS BEING FIRED?

CAPTAIN, I DIDN'T COPY, SAY AGAIN?



WE'RE PINNED DOWN IN MED-LAB! THEY CAME FROM BOTH SIDES! HAD NO CHOICE --!

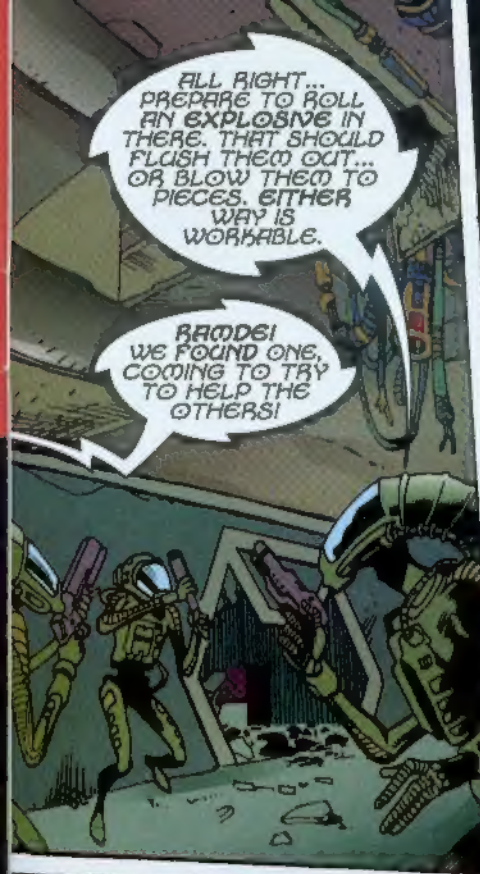
ON MY WAY!

NO, WAIT!




DELENN, YOU STAY H--


-- DELENN? DELENN!




ALL RIGHT...
PREPARE TO ROLL
AN EXPLOSIVE IN
THERE. THAT SHOULD
FLUSH THEM OUT...
OR BLOW THEM TO
PIECES. EITHER
WAY IS WORKABLE.



RAMDS!
WE FOUND ONE,
COMING TO TRY
TO HELP THE
OTHERS!



GOOD
WORK.
BRING IT
HERE.

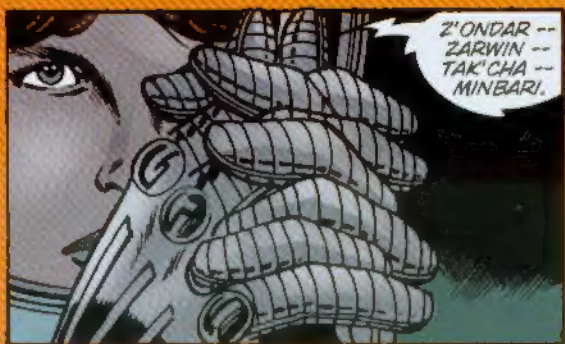


WAIT!
LISTEN TO
ME! I --



JOHN --!

DELENN!



MAKE NO MISTAKE — THE TAK'CHA, AS THEY ARE APPARENTLY CALLED, ARE NOT EXACTLY A CUDDLY RACE.

THEY CONTINUE TO REGARD THE CAPTAIN, GARIBALDI AND ME WITH A DEGREE OF SUSPICION. BUT THEY WORSHIP DELENN, SO WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH AS THEY PREPARE TO BRING US OVER TO THEIR SHIP, TO TRANSPORT US BACK TO BABYLON 5.

APPARENTLY DELENN'S NAME APPEARED IN SACRED TEXTS OF THEIRS, WHEN A NOTED LEADER OF THEIRS, ZARWIN, RECOUNTED A MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND VALEN. SHE WAS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY TO THEM. ONE MYSTERY DOWN, TEN ZILLION TO GO.

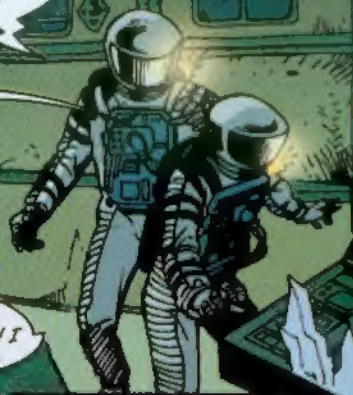
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DELENN... WE HAVE TO GO. OUR SHIP'S WAITING.

IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEY WORSHIPPED VALEN AS MUCH AS WE MINBARI EVER DID, JOHN. AND WE EACH REGARDED THIS STATION AS A LINK TO THE PAST... SAW EACH OTHER AS THREATS.

VALEN WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED THE IRONY OF THAT, I THINK... AND THE IRONY OF A RACE WHICH STILL REMAINS WARLIKE NONETHELESS PROVING A SALVATION.

I ONLY WISH I COULD...



I LED THEM INTO FIRE... INTO DARKNESS... INTO DEATH... AND THEY FOLLOWED ME WITHOUT HESITATION.

THEY ACCLAIM MY VICTORIES AND HAIL ME AS A GREAT LEADER.

THEY SPEAK OF MY SUCCESSES AS IF THEY ARE AS INFINITE AS THE STARS.

AND YET... FOR ALL THAT I'VE ACCOMPLISHED... I LIE AWAKE, LISTENING TO THE SCREAMS OF THE DEAD AND DYING.


THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY GONE, AND THOSE WHO ARE YET TO BE BORN. A FEW WORDS FROM ME COULD AVERT THE EARTH-MINBARI CONFLICT. A WARNING TO DELENN OR DUKHAT...

BUT WITHOUT THE WAR THERE WOULD BE NO BABYLON 4 AND NO BABYLON 5. THERE WOULD BE NO RALLYING POINT AGAINST THE DARKNESS... AND THE SHADOWS WOULD WIN, NOW AND A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW. I CANNOT DEVIATE FROM THE CIRCLE OF WHICH I AM A PART. I AM THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, AS ZATHRAS SAID...

MY NAME IS VALEN...

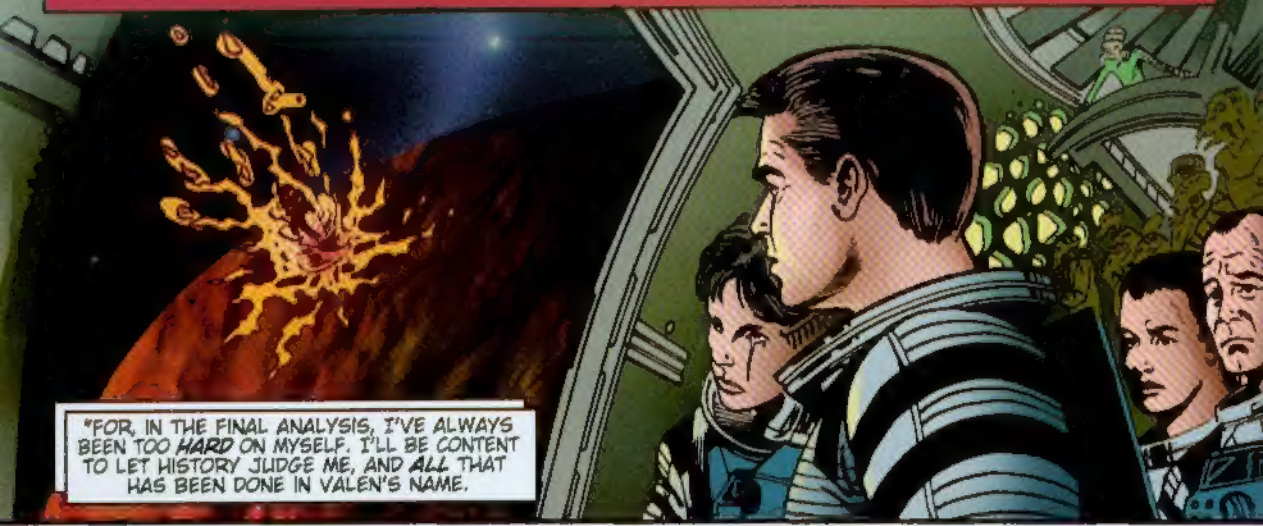
AND I HAVE SERVED MY PEOPLE LIKE NO OTHER.

AND, A PRISONER OF IT... I DARE NOT CHANGE THE END.




"STILL... IT'S BEEN A GOOD
LIFE... *LIVES*... OVER ALL.
DELENN, CATHERINE, SUSAN,
MICHAEL... IF ANY OF YOU
SEE THIS SOMEHOW...

"DON'T CRY
FOR ME.




"FOR, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN TOO *HARD* ON MYSELF. I'LL BE CONTENT
TO LET HISTORY JUDGE ME, AND *ALL* THAT
HAS BEEN DONE IN VALEN'S NAME.



"AND AS FOR ME...
I'VE RECEIVED MY
OWN REWARD...

"...BECAUSE I'VE
FOUND HER. AT
LONG LAST...



"I'VE
FOUND...
HER."